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# Odors Expected To Worsen During Bridgeton Landfill Construction

By Véronique LaCapra

St. Louis Public Radio - 4:30 am | Mon May 20, 2013

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/odors-expected-worsen-during-bridgeton-landfill-construction-0>

More work is scheduled to begin on Monday at the Bridgeton Landfill.

Crews will be removing six large underground concrete pipes that are no longer in use and have become unstable.

The pipes could be helping foul-smelling, potentially toxic gases to escape from the landfill, where an underground fire has been smoldering for two and half years.

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster says residents can expect odors to get worse during the construction.

"The degree to which the odor may increase is both an unknown and a matter of disagreement among experts," Koster said at a press conference last week. "Put simply, it could be a little, or it could be a lot. Some of it will depend on weather conditions."

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources plans to step up air sampling at the landfill while the pipes are being excavated, including daily monitoring for hydrogen sulfide and benzene.

Koster says construction crews will be ready to respond if unhealthy levels are detected.

"There will be topsoil that is staged around the removal of the pipe that if air quality real-time monitoring were to detect concerning levels of any toxins, the work would immediately stop and topsoil would be pushed back into the holes," Koster said.

Removal of the pipes could take until mid-June.

As part of [an agreement with the state](#), landfill owner Republic Services will pay to [relocate nearby residents](#) to a hotel until the work is finished.

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